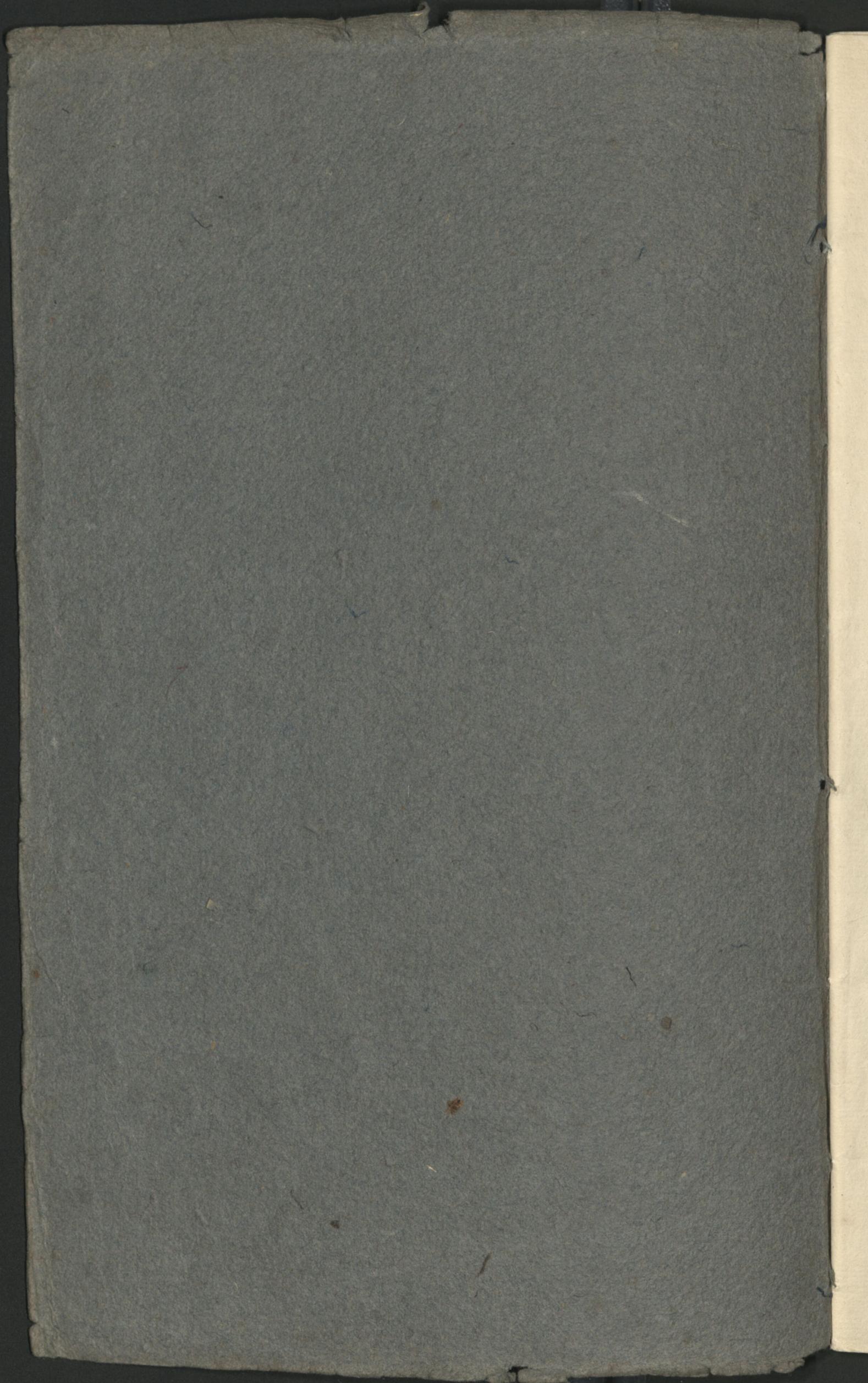
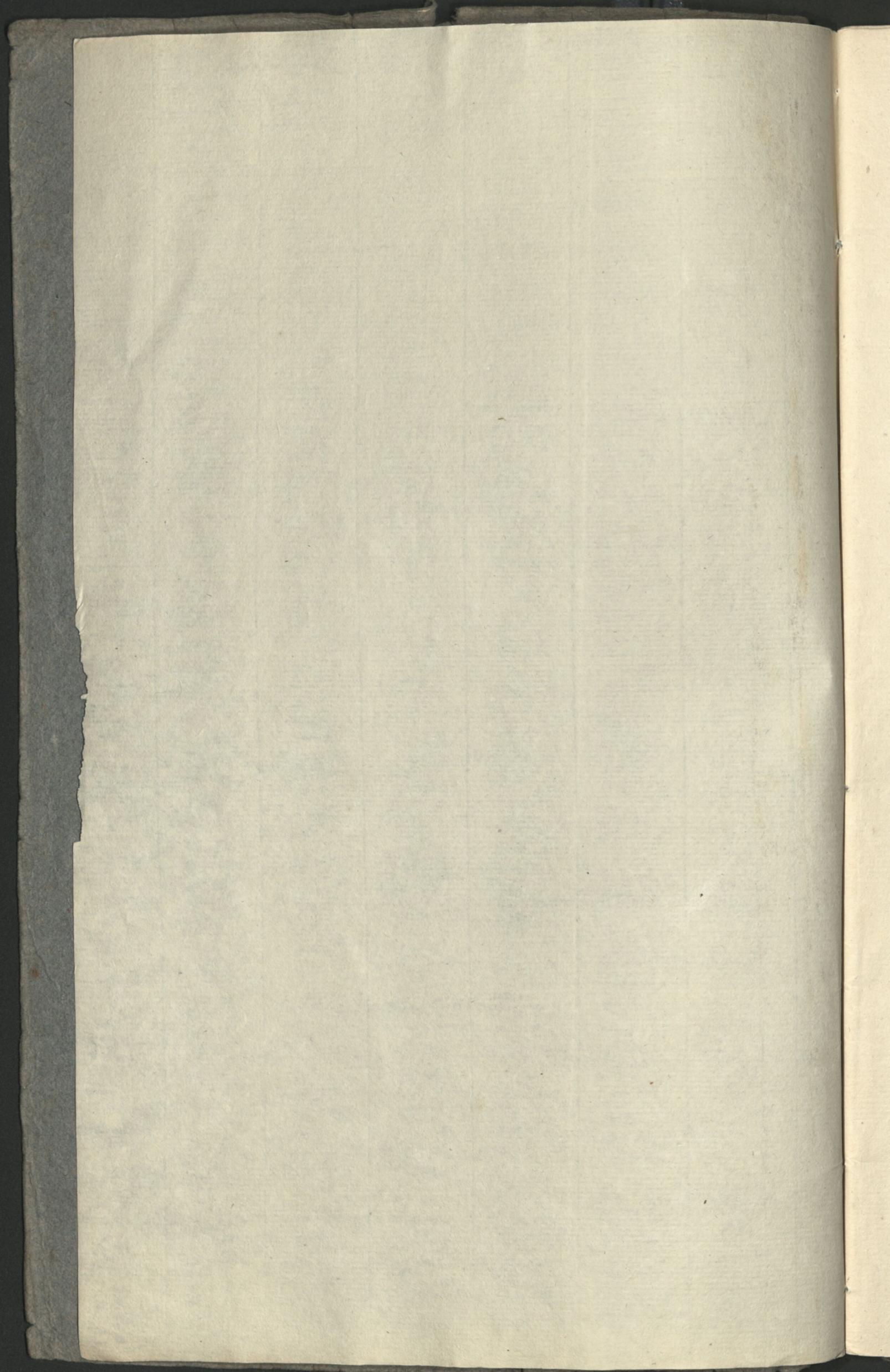
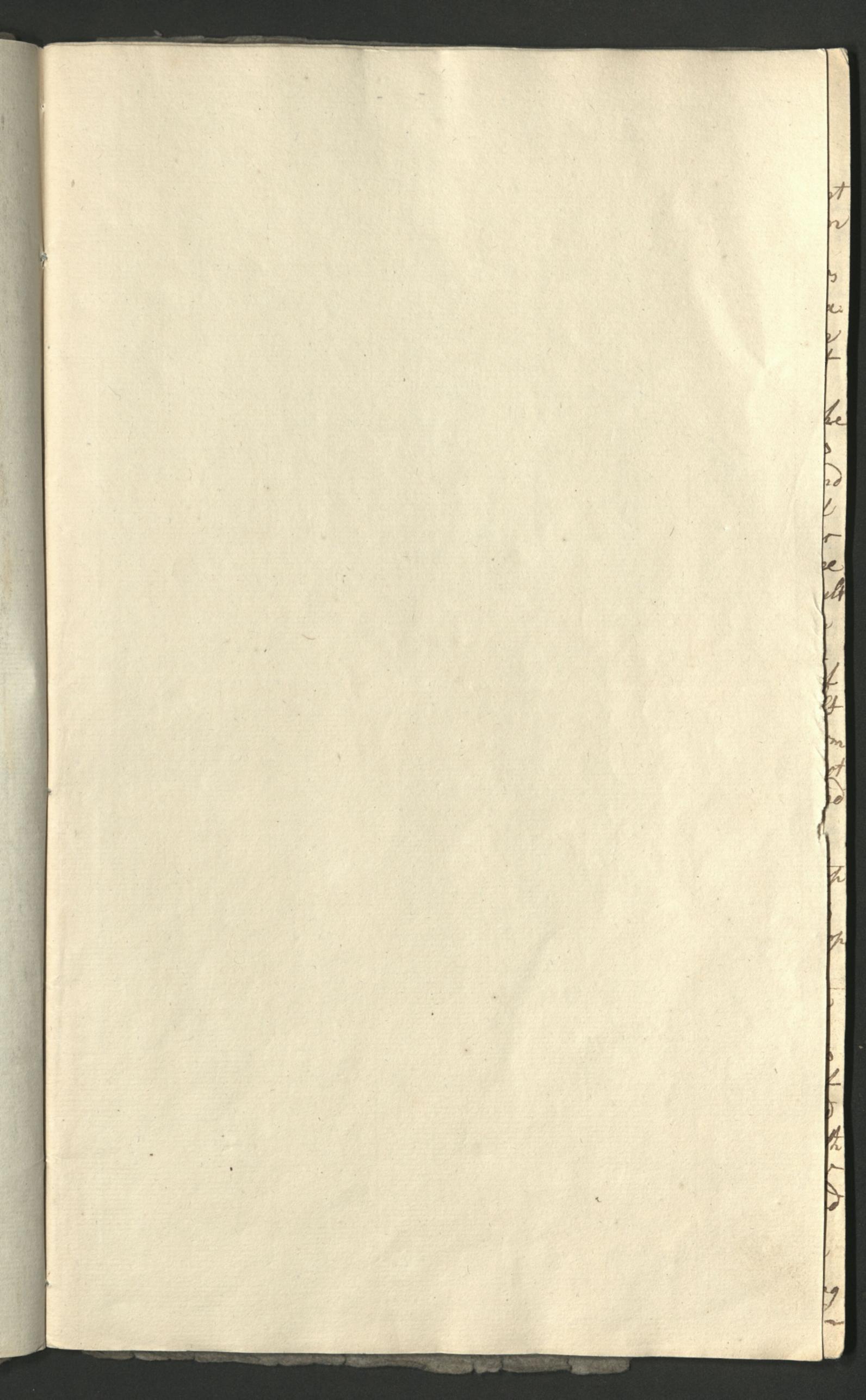
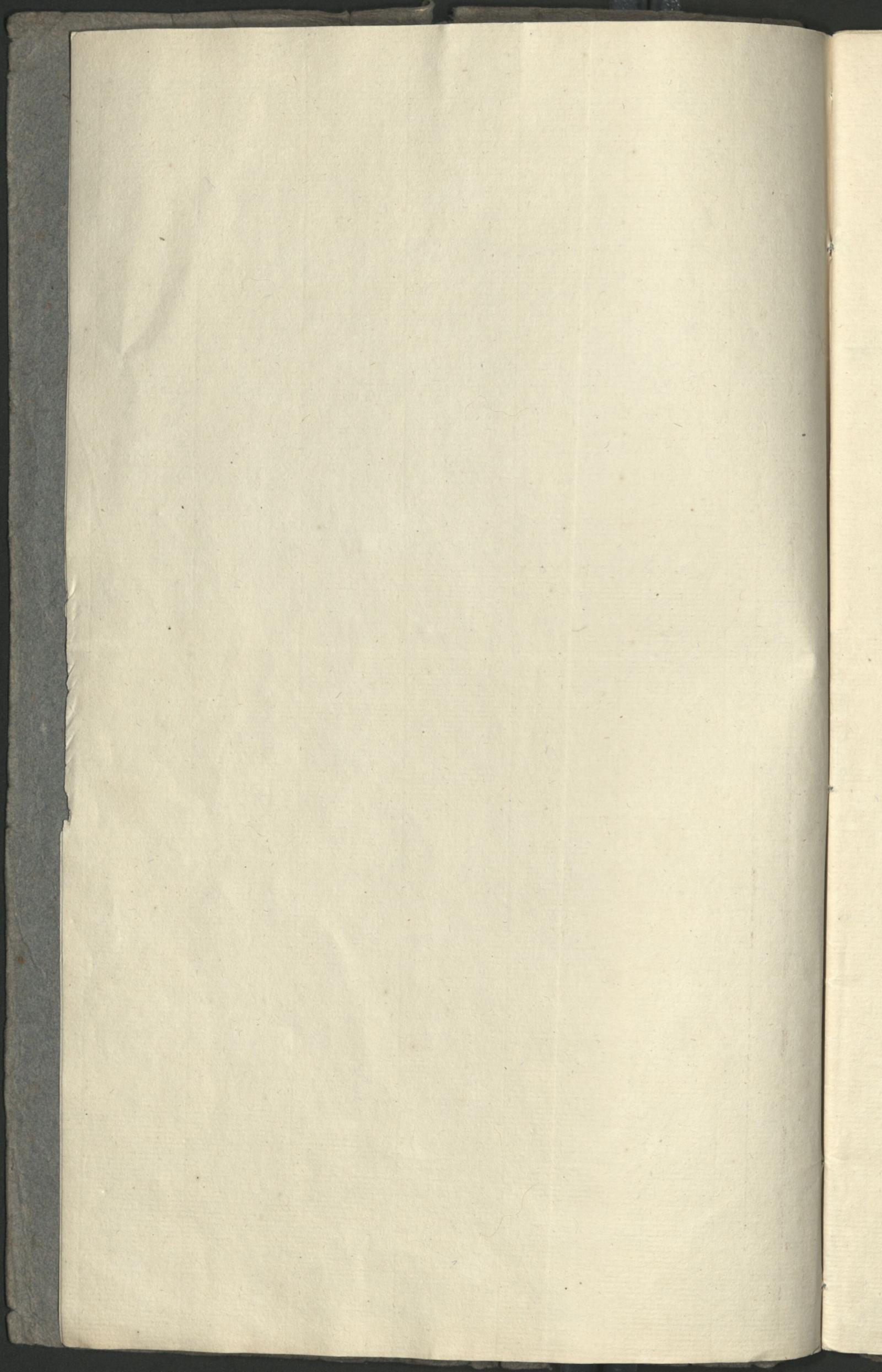


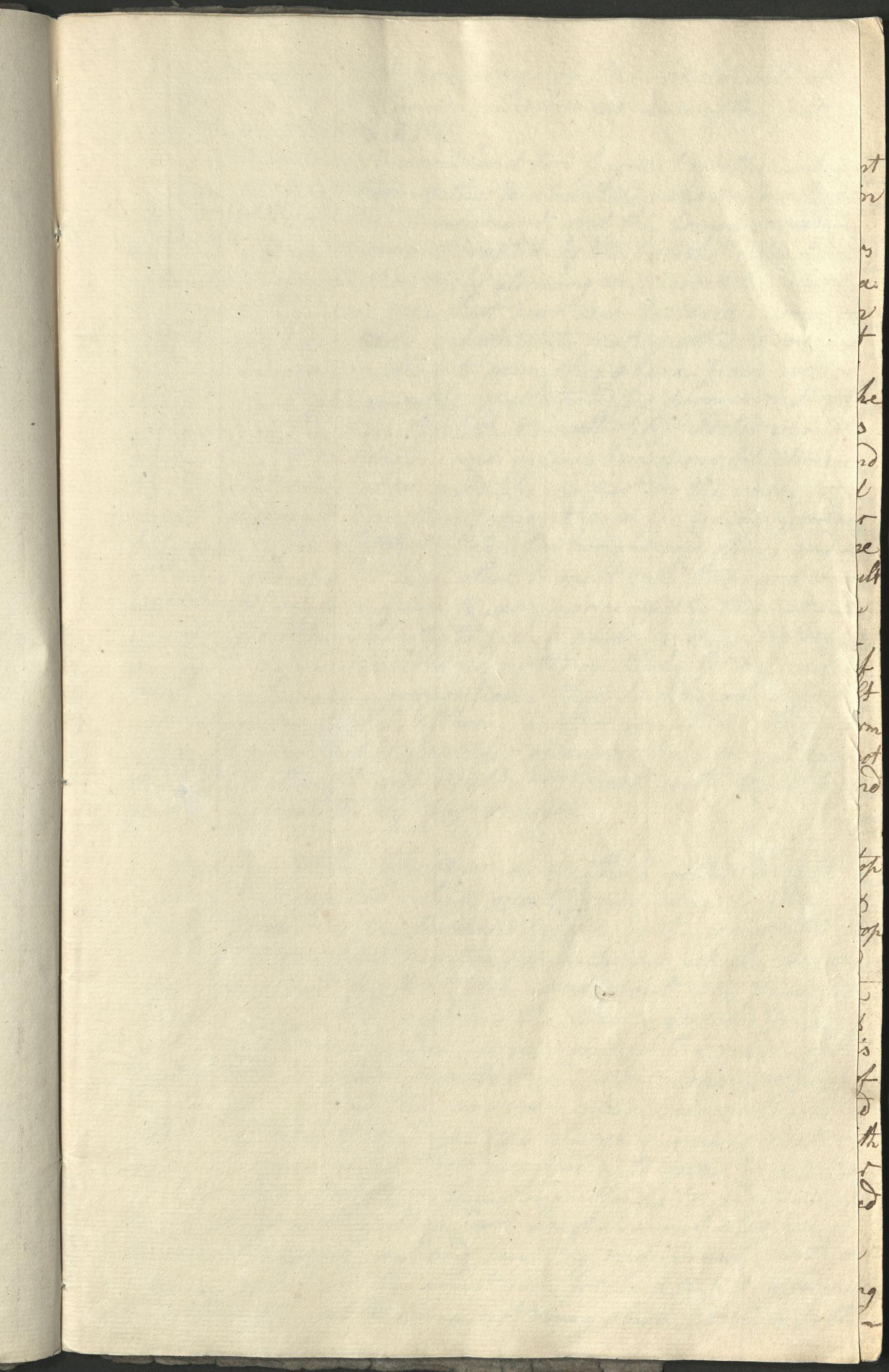
War of
1812











the

some

1
The Situation and proceedings of the Inhabitants of
Nantucket with sundry Occurrences during the war
of 1812. 1813. 1814. 1815

being situated upon an Island ten leagues from the Continent
beyond the protection of the United States who are involved in
wars with the British Government, and the communication
with this Island so far interrupted by the British Vessels of war
as to make our situation truly alarming we received the informa-
tion on 20th of June 1812 that war was declared, and on
the 22th several respectable inhabitants met together to consult
and devise some method to save this place from ruin
considering it a favourable opportunity, by permission, to make
application to the then British Minister J. M^{rs} Foster who was
at that time at Washington and inform him of our situation and
try for some relief as we could take no part in the wars, and
agreed to appoint five then present and for Gideon Gardner
to acquaint Obed M^{itchel} John Cartwright and others and see
if they would appoint five others to meet with them and consult
and devise some measure to save our property then at sea
and to try to obtain liberty to fish & whale in these waters
during the war, Gideon Gardner waited on Obed M^{itchel} and in-
formed him the above proposition, Obed said he would consult
with Christopher M^{itchel} & others, & after consulting, Obed inform
Gideon Gardner that it was their opinion the prospect was not
worth the attempt and would not meet with their friends
on the subject to try for relief

A number of the Selectmen and others not willing to stop
without at all for relief meet from time to time &
some of the inhabitants ^{had} after loosing over four thousand Dollars by the capture of the sloop
Earl with a load of oil from the ship Criterian which was paid
about the first of April 1814 and about that time the
Enemies frequently captured the coasting & wood Vessels &
some boats passing after provisions for the relief of this
people the Liverpool privateer and other enemies being of-
ten in sight so that the communication was mostly stopped
and on the 17th of June 1814 a large number met with
the selectmen to get their assistance to qualify a paper
for Jonathan Smith in the sloop Hon^o to go after a load
of corn & flour & the sloop Earl Jacob Barney also which
was both agreed on and sent by individuals with a
beginning paper from the selectmen for each Vessel informing
of our situation at this time not being a bushel of corn to sell

2
or a barrel of flour nor a cord of wood to be bo't at Nantucket
at this time. as follows - being a copy of Jon: Smith Letter
Viz: To the Commander in Chief of his Britannic Majestys Ships
and Vessels of war on the North American Station -
The Island of Nantucket is principally inhabited by people call'd
Leakers. they together with the other inhabitants of this place take
no part in wars - altho from the calamity of wars being situated upon
an Island they are a distressed people and upon the principle of
Humanity - we the undersigned Selectmen and Overseers of the poor
do hereby Certify that the absolute distress of the inhabitants of this
Town are truly alarming not a bushel of corn to be bought in this place
at this time - and the sufferings of this people are beyond description
and necessity compels us to dispatch the Sloop Alonso Jonathan Smith
Master to the Continent for the purpose of procuring corn and other
materials for Bread for the immediate relief of the distress of this people
therefore upon the principle of Humanity they seriously request
and feel fully persuaded that the Commander in Chief will permit
this Vessel to pass unmolested for to procure relief to the distressed
with out delay Sign'd.

Nantucket 6th 1814.
Jonathan Smith being the
Bearer of the above who
was detained by Capt of the ship
Belvidier Tigaat & Let go again

Gideon Folger
Tristram Hussey } Selectmen of
Isaac Coffin the Town of
Daniel Coffin Nantucket
Joseph Chase

Obed Marshall Overseers of the
Prince Gardner Jr } Towns Poor

To the Commander in Chief of his Britannic Majestys Ships and Vessels
On the North American Station and to all Commanders of his Britannic Majestys
Ships and Vessels on the different Stations in North America -

We the undersigned Selectmen and overseers of the poor of the town
of Nantucket do most respectfully request you to take into your Consideration
the distressed and alarming situation of this ^{people} and we solicit you
to receive this Vessel as a flag of truce. sent by us for the express pur-
pose to request you will grant us permission to bring the necessary Sup-
plies of provisions and fuel from the continent unmolested. we beg leave
to represent to you Absolute facts. Viz: The Island of Nantucket is ~~inhabit~~
Principally inhabited by people call'd Leakers they together with the oth-
er inhabitants of this place take no part in wars altho from the calamity
of wars and being situated upon an Island. and upon the principle of
Humanity we the undersigned do hereby Certify the distress of this people is
Truly alarming. and necessity compels us to dispatch this sloop Earl Peter
F Coffin our agent. who we have instructed to ask you in a respectfull
manner to grant us such permission as will relieve the distress of this
People. Sign'd. Isaac Coffin Daniel Coffin Joseph Chase Selectmen of the Town
by Obed Marshall Tristram Hussey George Gardner Th: May Gideon Folger } of Nantucket
Prince Gardner Jr } Overseers of the poor of Nantucket

Instructions to Peter F Coffin. 6th of July 1814

We hereby appoint you our agent you herewith have our flag of truce for the express purpose to proceed to the Commander in chief of his Britannic Majestys ships and Vessels on the North American Station you will in the name of this town represent in a respectfull manner to the Commander in Chief and all other Commanders of his Britannic Majestys ships and Vessels on the North American Station that the people of this place take no part in wars but remain Neutral as far as in their power it being a well known fact that we are within the jurisdiction of the United States of America yet we are placed by nature beyond their protection which was considered in the revolutionary war by this State a sufficient cause to exempt us from paying taxes during the revolutionary war which we were exempt from by this state and we have petitioned the Congress of the United States to exempt us from paying the present tax of the United States which petition is now pending. during the revolutionary our situation compell us to apply to the Commander in chief of his Britannic Majestys ships and Vessels on this Station for relief he upon the principle of humanity granted ~~granted~~ us permission to whale on the American coast one of the original permits you have here inclosed our situation is truly alarming beyond description and the inhabitants of this town cannot exist upon this Island without permission from the commander in chief and the other commanders of his Britannic Majestys ships & Vessels on this Coast therefore you will represent our situation and solicit him or them to grant permission not only for the sloop Earl but for the people of this place to bring from the continent necessary provisions and fuel and to carry to the continent oil fish & Candles to pay for provisions and fuel also to solicit permission for the Vessels of this place to fish and whale and in return we pledge ourselves that we will petition the government of the United States to exempt the British fishery from molestation which we flatter ourselves might be carried into effect ~

Nantucket 6th of July 1814 (By order and in behalf of the Selectmen
To Peter F Coffin parent) of the town of Nantucket ~
Signed Isaac Coffin Chairman

Isaac Coffin

The Sloop Earl Saile on the 10th of Jan 1814

Soon after the sloop Earl sail'd our troubles increased by the enemies being often in sight and frequently taking and stoping the provisions and fuel from coming it was considered proper to advertise for a town meeting to seek for further relief and to prevent a committee of safety being placed over the selectmen as was contemplated, and to prevent confusion —

At a legal Town Meeting 23rd of Jan 1814 Voted

That we appoint the present selectmen of this town a Committee with full powers to make use of such means as may appear to them most Eligible for this town to pursue which the constitution and laws of the United States and this State done not forbid for the Inhabitants of this place to bring wood and provisions and other necessaries for the Consumption of the Inhabitants of the Island of Nantucket from the continent of the United States —

1814th
Jan 23 On or about the opening of this meeting or about 2 o'clock - two O M the sloop Charlotte Saile George Eastwright master Charles Eastwright & Benjⁿ Coffin - agents supposed bound after a load of provisions, but the first news we heard of them was at Bermuda 10th of Jan 1814 which information we got about the 3^d of Jan 1814 —

On or about the 25th soon after the town meeting the Selectmen with the advice of some friends appointed Gideon Gardner & Zenas Coffin to contract with David Starbuck for sloop Hawk as a flag vessel to go and try for relief for the inhabitants of Nantucket and for P Committee to forward and have P Sloop Hawk to be ready for sea as soon as possible which was done and P Sloop David Starbuck master sail'd on the 28th as a flag of truce —

Silvanus May & Isaac Coffin as Commissioners
Andrew Calder as mate
Reuben Ellis
Barzella May
Frederick May } and People
Boy - }

A Flag of truce & instructions the following is a copy
 Viz: To Silvanus Macy and Isaac Coffin Esq^r
 By this present instrument you are hereby appointed
 and legally qualified by the Selectmen of Nantucket as
 Commissioners to imbark in the sloop Hawk Cap^r David -
 Starbuck who has received directions to carry you without
 delay to the British Naval Commander in Chief on the
 North American Station - when you may meet the comon
 ander in Chief you will carefully and faithfully represent
 to him the present state and condition of the inhabitants
 of this Town adding also that they are seriously apprehen-
 sive of the overwhelming effect of famine which seems
 can neither be evaded or eluded except permission can
 be obtained from the Commander in chief to import
 the necessary provisions and fuel from the continent
 to this Island, but as you are fully acquainted with
 every particular it is considered needless to add any thing
 more on this subject than to mention our confidence -
 that you will give it all the attention which its importa-
 nce may appear to demand - you are also so well acque-
 ainted with the exhausted state of our finances and the
 necessity of ways and means to replenish them and that the
 fishing has been hereby our constant dependance for that
 purpose but little need be said on the occasion we would
 however recommend that you mention the facts of things
 to the Commander in Chief and if possible to obtain perm-
 ission to procure it as heretofore it is presumed we need
 not add any thing more then to call your pointed
 attention to the several particulars herein contained

Nantucket 27th of July 1814 Sign^r: Dan^r Coffin
 Joseph Chase Selectmen of the
 Francis Macy Town of
 George Gardner
 Eudon Folger Nantucket

Orders to Capt David Hartshorne

It having been determined by the Selectmen of the Town of Nantucket to dispatch the sloop Hawk now under your command to Chesapeake Bay or else where as a flag of truce you will with all possible convenience prepare your vessel for that undertaking and after being equipped for the voyage you will embrace the first favourable opportunity and proceed to the place of your destination subject however to the following instructions —

1st: you are to display the white flag at your top-mast-head and continue it abroad (as occasion may require) during the time you are considered as a cartel — As Silvanus Macy and Isaac Coffin Esq^r. will embark with you as Commissioners to negotiate or transact the concerns of the town under directions of the Selectmen — you will in every case be subject to their control and attentive to their orders keeping constantly in view that an important point of your duty will be to convey them to the British Naval Commander in chief on the North American Station with the least possible delay you will not admit any passenger or article of merchandise whatever at any time during your voyage to be taken on board your vessel except it be by the express direction of the above mentioned Commissioners — Sign^d

Nantucket
27th of July 1814

Joseph Chase
Thomas Macy
Daniel Coffin
George Gardner
Gideon Folger

Selectmen of the
Town of Nantucket

On or about the 11th of 8th 1811 the Sloop Experiment sail-^d
bound westward, supposed after provisions to ~~leave the~~
~~State~~, but from what has appear'd since as follows it
was to prevent the Selectmen from receiving their
wrights -

On the 22nd Inst. the British Brig of War Nimrod an-
chored at the bar of this harbour and hoisted a white
flag at the foretop gallon head. - the Collector of the ~~Customs~~
~~Customs~~ and the Deputy marshal of this place went
of in a boat with a white flag set, after round bran point
saw a boat ahead of them and soon after saw a boat
from the brig with a white flag, ~~from the brig~~ coming
towards them which seem to have some conversation
with the boat from the shore which laid round and
road in for the shore, when the Collector & Marshal
mett the boat from the Brig the officer of the
brig got in to the collectors boat and had some
talk, but got in to his own boat again but told
the Collector & Marshal he would meet them on shore
the Collector having a fish boat the brig's boat went a
head and the other boat from the shore being a whale
boat went ahead also with Aaron Mitchell & Albert ^{Go}
in it, and to the surprise of the Collector & Marshal
had aid of the officer of the boat so that they
never saw him after to speak to him, but it
was reported from Obad Mitchell Aaron Mitchell &
a great many others, and some of the Selectmen
call on, and informed ^{sayd} them that there was a ~~total~~
communication on board the Brig Nimrod directed to
Isaac Coffin Chairman Gideon Folger & others of the Selectmen, ~~and~~
and to Obad Mitchell & Christopher Mitchell - which was not
found correct afterward

8 The British officer went up with Josiah Barker to his house with Aaron Albert and others, the Selectmen met at Tristram Shupps house, after waiting some time expecting the Officer would call on them. they sent to this officer and informed him provided he had any communication to make to them they would be pleased to see him. he informed them his business was to deliver a letter to the magistrates of the Town which he had done, after this the officer went home with Aaron to his house afterwards about the middle of the evening Sideon Gardner met this officer near O Gj^t as if coming from Aaron's and informed him in the street the selectmen would be pleased to see him he said he would go and see them then Gardner waited on him to Tristram Shupps house where the selectmen were about 8 o'clock in the evening of 22th on their way this Officer informed Sideon Gardner there was a sealed paper onboard the Nimrod of propositions the terms which the Admiral would grant indulgence to Nantucket but he knew not the contents, and that that paper was directed to Isaac Coffin Chairman & others of the Selectmen, & Obed Mitchel & Christopher Mitchel, and when the Officer met with the Selectmen he informed them about the communication to them on board and invited them to come on board to morrow and receive $\frac{1}{2}$ paper and then the Officer return to his boat about 9 o'clock Sideon Gardner went down with him and see him go of about that time.

on 23th About 8 o'clock in the morning the selectmen being ready to go of call on Christopher Mitchel & Obed to go of with them, which they refused then the selectmen went of and when they got onboard the brig and went below in the cabin to there surprise they saw Josiah Barker Albert Gardner & Aaron Mitchel with Capt Newton ~~at~~ ^{on the table} the table with all the papers open and spread after Capt Newton received & seated them he read the papers to them which was his instructions from Commodore Holtham which was afterwards read in open town meeting

The Selectmen then requested a copy of P^t Orders which he said he would have copy'd and they should have it after it was wrote and about to come on shore Capt Newton had invited them all to go in his boat having roomy seats - they excepted but before they got in to the boat David Coffin one of the selectmen ask Capt Newton for P^t paper again he said it was in his pocket and he would give it him. but they all got in the boat and came on shore and landed about half past eleven and Capt Newton was addressed direct to ~~the~~ the Washington benevolent society Hall, where a large number was met to hear P^t papers read instead of being delivered to the selectmen as was proposed after a short time and that meeting hearing the papers read the meeting adjourned to meet again after dinner then Capt Newton went home with Aaron Notchel and afternoon returned to P^t meeting again which was large collection. all this time the selectmen and inhabitants, new not what was a going on but was informed out doors by Aaron & Christopher that if we did not agree, to the Communicator, that Capt Newton had Orders to secure and seal up all the ^{private} property on the Island. after dinner the selectmen meet again at Tristram Hovey and waited till after 3 o'clock before they received any communication several calling on them to no what was to be done after which James Barker went down near the brick office where Christopher Notchel meet him and was informed ^{had} nothing of any Communicator yet but Christopher went in and soon bro't it out and James carried ^{it} up to the selectmen, and before they had time to read P^t paper there was a committee in from the Benevolent place and before it was read there was another committee in from the same place with a written application for a town-

Meeting at 6 o'clock this afternoon which was complied with the warrant wrote and put ^{up} as usual as soon as could be which was but about 2 hours before meeting

1811-23rd of Jan at 6 o'clock the inhabitants of the town meet agreeable to the warrant posted up, and voted Jethro Mitchell Jr. moderator for the meeting and adjourned out of doors round and about the town Cistern as the town house would not accommodate the inhabitants after reading the warrant the instructions from Commodore Hotham to Capt. Newton was read which will follow after the Votes of the Hasty & proceedings

Voted that this town will not take up arms against Great Britain during the present war between Great Britain and the United States of America generally or individually —

Voted that this town will surrender up all such public arms & ammunition that shall be found in the town —

Voted that this town will not take to defend any public property

Voted that this town will make no opposition against any British vessel coming into this harbour to refresh

Voted that this town will choose a committee to wait on Commodore Hotham in Gardners Bay or elsewhere agreeable to his request

Voted that this Committee consist of four persons

Voted that Capt. Joseph Chase, Capt. Linus Coffin, Josiah Barker Esq & Mr. Aaron Mitchell be the above ^{the} Committee

Voted the Committee provide a vessel for them to go to that shall be suitable for their purposes —

Voted that the above Committee inform Capt. Newton the commander of the brig Nimrod the proceedings of this meeting and that they are appointed to wait on Commodore Hotham in Gardners Bay or Else where —

The reader may judge from the following observation of the agitated situation of this people to pass the above Votes, after hearing Aaron Mitchell declare in the above mentioned town meeting that Capt. Newton of the Nimrod informed him provided the Santuket people did not agree to the terms offered by Commodore Hotham that his orders were to put seals on the private property. these observations was circulating before the meeting to prepare the people for what, the reader will judge —

A Copy Superb off Gardners Island 21st August 1814

Sir the Commander in Chief having transmitted to me petitions
 Capt Barrie of his majestys ship Dragon had received and forward
 him from the selectmen of Nantucket representing the inhabitants
 of that Island to be in a state of starvation copies of which I inclose for
 your information and instructed me to cause inquiry to be made
 into the truth of the statement they contain and to act therein as I
 may deem circumstances to require I here with send you also the Copy
 of a paper received by Captain Carteret of his majestys ship Pomone from
 them - and have to desire you will proceed in the sloop under your
 Command to the road before the town of Nantucket, and inquire into the
 truth of the statement the people of Nantucket have made, and if you
 should find them actually in the distress situation they represent
 you will acquaint the magistrates and selectmen I am instructed by
 the commander in chief to grant them permission to import from the
 Continent supplies of provisions and fuel provided they will declare
 the Island and themselves Neutral in the war which exists between
 Great Britain and America, and surrender all such artillery arms and
 ammunition as well as all Government property which may be on the
 Island and furnish to any of his majestys ships or vessels which may
 arrive there such refreshments as it will afford without distressing
 the inhabitants on receiving payment for the same. but you will at
 the same time distinctly give them to understand that they can
 not be allowed to carry ^{on} their fishery nor any other description
 of trade but that which consists to the necessities of life in the
 event of their consenting to these terms, you will effectually destroy
 all such artillery arms and ammunition which may be delivered
 up as you cannot receive onboard the Nimrod and put seals on
 the government property informing the magistrates if they are bro-
 ken before directions shall be received for its disposal the contract
 with the inhabitants of the Island shall be annulled and having so done
 you will rejoin me without loss of time on any rendezvous bring-
 ing with you a deputation of Magistrates or selectmen in any
 vessel of their own to conclude with me a treaty to the above effect
 desiring them to bring me the names and descriptions of the vessels
 they wish to be furnished with passports which must consist of a
 limited and small number - in the execution of this service you
 will pay the strictest attention in discriminating public from private
 property and preventing any injury being done to that which belongs to
 the inhabitants, and if you should find them amicably disposed you will
 observe a friendly conduct towards them - I have the honor to be Sir
 your most Obedient humble servant sign'd. Henry Hotham

To Capt Newton
 H. M. Sloop Nimrod

Commander

A Copy Superb of Gardners Island, 21st August 1814

Gentlemen

Vice Admiral the Honorable Sir Alexander

Cochrane Commander in Chief of his Majestys Fleet on
the North American Station has received the several
Petitions the Selectmen of Nantucket transmitte to
Capt Barrie of his Majestys Ship Dragon in the mo-
nth of July last, and having instructed me to

To The Worshipful
The Magistrates of the
Island of Nantucket

To communicate with them on the Subject, I directed
Cap^t Carteret of his majestys Ship Pomone to do so,
from whom I have received the letter bearing date
the 11th Inst. which you had addressed to the Officer
Commanding either of his majestys ships, requesting
Permission to import wood from Burzards Bay, and
Provisions from other parts for the relief of the inha-
bitants of the Island of which you are the magistrates

— in reply to which I beg leave to acquaint you I
have sent Cap^t Newton of his Majestys Sloop Nimrod
to propose to you the terms on which the Comm-
ander in Chief has authorized me to grant the
indulgences you require and if they should meet
the views of the people of Nantucket I shall be
happy to receive on board the superb off Gardners
Island a deputation of Persons duly empowred to
Conclude with me a treaty having for its object
the rendering nutral the Island, Island of Nantuck
during the present war between great britain and
America, and (for the) relief of its Inhabitants.

This Communication was not known to the Selectmen or magistrates as directed, until the
Capt held from them by the benevolent Masters, See Major Smith, Captain, etc, etc
Signed - Henry Stotham
Commander

A Copy N^o. 1

Declaration of the undersigned Committee appointed by a
Legal Town meeting held at the Island of Nantucket,
On the 23rd Day of August 1814, To wait on -

Commodore the Honorable Henry Hotcham, Com-
manding his Britannic Majestys Ship^s and Vessels
Employd on the Coast of North America, between
Nantucket and the Delaware, to Stipulate for the
relief of the Said Island -

1st.

The Island of Nantucket is hereby declared neutral
the Inhabitants will take no part whatever Collect-
tively or Severally in the present war between -
Great Britain and the United States of America -

2^d.

We pledge our selves there are no Arms Artillery
Ammunition nor warlike Stores, nor government
property of any kind on the Island except the light
houses and a scanty Supply of oil for the season
which we request may remain unmolested -

3^d.

Such refreshments as the Island may be able to afford,
without distressing the Inhabitants will be as free for
the use of his Majestys Ships as at other friendly
Places -

Given under our hand, on board
his Britannic Majestys Ship Superb in (Signed) Z
Gardners Bay -
the 28th Day of August 1814

by J. Jonah
Aaron

Chase
Coff
Barker
Mitchel

By the Honbl. Henry Holtham Commodore Commanding his Majesties Ships and Vessels employed on the coast of North America between Nantucket and the Delaware The Island of Nantucket having this Day declared neutral by a deputation appointed at a legal Town Meeting held on the 23rd Inst to wait on me to stipulate for the relief of the inhabitants, who in ganze they shall take no part what ever in the war between Great Britain, and the United States of America and that such refreshments as it can afford without distressing shall be as free for the use of his Majesties Ships as at other friendly places, and having by the direction of Vice Admiral the Honorable Sir Alexander Cochrane K. B. Commander in Chief in Consideration thereof granted them permission to import provisions live stock jewel and other necessaries of life from the Continent of the United States and furnished certain Vessels with Passports to perform such Voyages unmolested by the ships and Vessels of his Majesties, and by the private armed Vessels of his Subjects. These are to request and direct that no hostilities, nor Depredations be committed by those which may arrive at or communicate with that Island

Given under my hand and seal on board his Majesties ship Superb of New London the 28th of August
1814

To
The Commanders
of his Majesties Ships & Vessels
(and of the private armed Vessels of his Subjects)

Sign'd. - Henry Holtham

By Command of the Commodore, John Irving.

1814- 8^o 30th Early in the Morning the Sloop Experiment arrived at Nantucket with the Committee of the town from Commodore Holtham inform their friends they had agreed on an arrangement with Commodore Holtham for the relief of this people to bring Provisions and fuel from the Continent of the United States of America unmolested, & requested some of their friends to meet with them and hear the agreement according to appointment the following persons met with the towns Committee, Francis May James Barker Gideon Gardner Tristram Hussey, Obed Mitchell Christopher Mitchell Thaddeus Cotton & Robert Folger all met in the back Chamber a committee of twelve which that it most advisable to add Gideon Gardner & Obed Mitchell with the standing Committee and arrange the business in the best way they could for the benefit of the town, which was agreed on as follows, for the three Vessels that follows the Philadelphia trade the three Vessels that follows the New York trade and the two packet all of the above Vessels being considered to be in good business to pay one dollar $\frac{1}{4}$ ton for the tonnage of each Vessel for the use of the town and that each Vessel should take freight on reasonable terms not to exceed a fixed price $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ and other freight in proportion, and the Vessels that bore wood not to exceed six dollars $\frac{1}{2}$ cord for the present time, —

Also the above Committee of arrangement appointed Gideon Gardner & Josiah Barker a Committee to go to Boston and make a representation to Elbridge Gerry the Vice President of the United States this Committee left Nantucket on 31st $\frac{1}{2}$ and waited on the Vice President at his house on the 1st $\frac{1}{2}$ in the evening at Cambridge near Boston and informed him the circumstances and situation of the people of Nantucket as follows

16
1814 9^o 1st

Third evening being the first day of September this
Committee Gideon Gardner & Josiah Barker waited
on the Vice president Elbridge Gerry at his house
at Cambridge and informed him they were a committee
from Nantucket to wait on him and inform him as
Vice President of the United States that the British brig
Nimrod. came to Nantucket bar on the 22nd of August
from Commodore Slothrop of the British squadron
off Gardner's Island with an official demand, that
If the inhabitants declare themselves neutral and
deliver up Government property and furnish such
refreshments as they could spare to the British when
they come to this place, there being no government
property nor a sufficient supply for the inhabitants
it was that proper to agree to the proposition on
the promise of a pass for a number of vessels for
to bring provisions & the necessaries of life and
fuel from the continent, being informed that if
we did ^{not} agree to the above proposals that Capt
Newton would put seals on all the private
property — and that the inhabitants had a
town meeting chose a committee to wait on
Commodore Slothrop made an arrangement
for the relief of this people —
as above named —

This Committee requested the Vice President to receive
this report from Nantucket to him as Vice President.
and requested his opinion and counsel on the subject
he told them he thought they had acted as they had
to have done and in his opinion it was in a degree
Compulsion, and advised them to inform the
Congress of the United States the proceedings —
which was done by the Collector by copies of papers

9^o 9th 1814 one day before the arrival of the sloop Hawk

A paper appeared posted up on Burnals store, sign'd by a citizen mentioning &c that a british officer had declar'd. that if the People of Nantucket paid the direct tax the amount would be demanded by the british of the inhabitants, or some violence done to the Collector of P^o tax, or nearly these words a forerunner of perhaps what the above writer was or might expect - perhaps by application from what follows.

10th this Morning the sloop Hawk David Starbuck master and Sil^d Mary & Isaac Coffin Commissioners with the crew of sloops laid which inform'd us they had been at Bermuda in pursuit of Admiral Cochrane the Commander in Chief and from thence to the Chesapeake where they find him, while at Bermuda the Governor of Bermuda inform them that the ^{sloop} Charlotte was there from Nantucket and that application had been made to plant the british flag at Nantucket but did not say who this application was made by nor who it was receive by, but observed that they Silvanus Mary & Isaac Coffin were from Legal authority and if they wish'd it it could be done, they inform'd the Governor it was not the wish of the people of Nantucket

The sloop Hawk & sloop Charlotte left Bermuda in Company with the frigate Madagasca for the Chesapeake on or about the 10th of August, and on or about the they arrived of the capes of the Chesapeake in the morning and in the afternoon the Charlotte arrived, on the same afternoon Sil^d Mary & Isaac Coffin went on board the Asia a 74 gun ship Capt Sheen, where they found Peter F Coffin Jacob Barney & Crew prisoners, P^o Mary Isaac Coffin & Peter F Coffin all dined with Capt Sheen in Company with the Capt of the Frigate Madagasca & the Capt of the Brig Fairweather sloop of war the Charlotte at

Anchor but a short distance from the Asia but were not called on board but to the contrary Capt Sheen observed at the table that that federal mob at Nantucket would ruin that place. and you two Gentlemen ^{before} it is over and I dispise them you see. for I will not notice them on board the Charlotte

The next morning the sloop Hawk went up Bay in company with the frigate Madagascar and brig Fairva the Charlotte got under way also but was fired at and detained untill afternoon then they were released - on the 27th the sloop Hawk arrived in the Petersen river and anchored near the admirals flagg ship about noon day and delayed going on board to the admiral untill seconday morning when they went and had an interview and finished their business before the Charlotte's agents went on board, but the admiral invited them ^{to come} on board again tomorrow to read a letter the instruction he had wrote to Commodore Hotham which letter book was then on board of a ship below in the river the next day according ^{to the} commanders invitation they went on board and read the instructions to Commodo Hotham and took a letter to him again from the Commander in Chief also an order for the Nantucket Prisoners on board the guard ship Asia &c. and to their surprise the admiral shew and read them a letter ~~dated~~ dated Nantucket, stating that they Mr. Mary & Isaac Coffin were democrats the Selectmen also. and the owners of the hawk - and that they and their party had sent an address to the President of the United States - offering their lives and fortunes. if he would carry on the war with Energy against Great Britain - provide this statement was true they must expect a cool reception from him - They inform the Commander in Chief the whole statement was false except that they were republicans and the whole was a false malicious letter & which they saw & see the signature or signer of Letter which was a Nantucket man, and they saw him on their return at Nantucket but were requested not to expose him for the present, he then finish with them by reading his letter & to Hotham and sent them to him with another letter and to git the necessary relief for

Nantucket that was required and read the letter to them that they were to carry to Boston without any Postscript to it. Letter after which Benj. Coffins and Charles Cartwright had an interview with the admiral about ten minutes then Benjⁿ Coffin come out of the cabin from the admiral and inform Sil^d Isaac that a postscript was to be added to Boston's Letter which the Admiral's secretary brought out and read to Sil^d Isaac and that was to forbid us at Nantucket to pay any taxes to the United States and then the letter was sealed and delivered to Sil^d Isaac and they left the ship without seeing the admiral again and returned on board the sloop Hawk and wrote from memory the following ^{is} the Report if not the exact

30. 8th 1814

~~1814~~ 8th Frigate Surprise in the Between River 30th 1814
 Sil^d A deputation from the Island of Nantucket having waited upon me in this river under a flag of truce to solicit permission to obtain supplies of food and fuel from the Continent of the United States, I have referred them to you, and you will be pleased to grant them such indulgences as you may deem proper. Consistently with what is prescribed in my letter No. 6. of the 26th of July 1814 respecting the inhabitants of that Island - I have the honor to be Sir your most obedient
 Dear Samuel ^{to} Humble Servt
 the Hon^{ble} Henry Clinton ^{Sign^d} A Cockburn
 8-8th 8th the Postscript follows

If you will be pleased to signify to the inhabitants of the Islands of Nantucket that if it be found they pay any direct taxes or internal duties for the support of the Government of the United States - I will withdraw this indulgence forthwith and will call on them to pay double the amount to his majestys Government. Signd A Cockrane

The reader may judge for him self about this postscript if they believe Silvanus May and Isaac Coffin when they solemnly declare that this letter was read to them the first time they were on board and took them by the secretary it only wanted the admirals signature and the next day read to them again with the other letters and without the Postscript. then Benj^o Coffin and Charles W^o Costwright was with the Admiral ten or fifteen minitts then Coffin come out of the Cabin & inform Sil^o & Isaac that the Postscript was added then the secretary come out and read the Postscript above to them before sealing & thundeli red it to Sil^o & Isaac to carry to Hotham

8m 30th in the afternoon got our anchor on board the sloop Hawk and run down the Potowmick river the sloop Charlotte in eight after us when we got down to the capes we went on board the gand ship Asia Capt Sheen with our order from the Admiral to receive from him the Nantucket prisoners which was granted immediately and the order also to hold them by if stoped by any other ship on person, as might happen and left the capes as soon as we could for Hotham

1814
9th

21

On or about the seventh of Sept^r the sloop Hawk arrived of the Eastend of Long Island and found Commodore Holtham Ship Superb at anchor near Fort Pond Bay near Shagwarror raf, anchord near her a boat was sent from the ship to the sloop to invite one of them on board with the letters & Papers and was informed by Commodore Holtham that he had already granted indulgences to a Committee from Nantucket which he inform Isaac all about and told him he could not do any more at present but informed him he had sent on to the Commander in Chief what he had done, & said to Isaac you'll have to come again as he said to the first Committee that he would grant them the liberty of carrying fish to market before inform of our fall fishings, and the necessity of the fishermen getting bread with some of their fish he again said we should have that privilage soon as the season was at hand for fishing, Thomas tryed hard to obtain it then but it was observed by some one we had done pretewell and must not ask for two much, for I have got nothing to git my property of the Island but can have it at any time as he said and Capt Gordon also — but to return to Commodore Holtham with Isaac respecting the taxes some of the officers being in the Cabin Holtham invited Isaac in the after Cabin asked him to explain Admirals Cochrane letter respecting the direct taxes and internal duties, and observed his ignorance as to the subject Isaac informed him it was a revenue for support of Government

On or about the 8th of Sept^r there appeared a paper
Posted up on the Burnal, Stoe, signed a Citizen
one or two Days before the sloop Hawk arrived with
Jl^d & Isaac, which paper posted up foretold
what they Bro^d or similar by saying if the
Nantucket people paid the direct tax it would
be demanded by the British or some Violence done
to the Collector of said taxes,
from the part the reader will judge for himself

His Majestys Ship Superb off New London

8 Sept^r 1814

Gentlemen I have received instructions from Vice Admiral
The Honorable Sir Alexander Cochrane K B Commander in
Chief 8th 8th which will require that the inhabitants of the
Island of Nantucket should distinctly understand that
the terms on which they have stipulated for the Neutrality
of that Island will not permit them to pay any direct
taxes or internal duties for the support of the Government
of the United States of America - and that I shall receive
an assurance from you that they conceive a strict adhera-
nce to Neutrality, will preclude them from receiving any
Support of that nature to that Government in failure of
the execution of which I am instructed forthwith to withdraw
the passports I have granted to their Vessels or to call on them
to pay double the amount of the taxes to his Britannic majesty
Government. They pay to that of the United States of Amer-

I have the honor to be Gentlemen your most Obedt
Humble Servt

Signd Henry Hotram
Comonadore

OS A Nantucket Vessel having been found whaling with a
counterfitt protection orders will be given to his majestys ships
to Capture & Destroy all Vessels belonging to that Island which
shall be found with any other than the original protection
granted to them, to the Gentlemen of the Committee
who stipulated for the neutrality of that Island of Nantucket

A Town Meeting to petition Congress, and answer Commodore Holman
A Copy of the Petition -

To the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress Assembled -

The Inhabitants of the town of Nantucket are compelled by calamities beyond their control once more to petition the Constituted authority of the nation to contribute at least so far to the alleviations of their sufferings as to suspend the Collector of the direct taxes & internal duties which by Law are or may be liable to be exacted of them they are convinced that a cessation of the pecuniary multiplied and overwhelming evils which assail them is not essential to procuring the relief for which they are now constrained to petition, exposed to the free and undisturbed access of the deland Enemies of the Government of the United States it is indispensable to their existance as a Componant part of that Government that they shoudt not during the existance of the war contribute to the means by which it is carried on, imposed as your petitioners sincerely are to injure their own country or to contravene its wholesome Laws. they cannot be less anxious to avoide affixing the seal to their own immediate misery and destruction it is evidently certain that while they continue to be without the protection of the Government of the United States, and exposed to all the depredations that may be committed upon them they cannot justly be reduced to misery and Starvation for a pecuniary contribution so inconsiderable to the Government as that which is required of them. this Consideration alone is not only sufficient to justify the respectfull application but it ought they believe to Claim for it that attention which will to a compleat attainment of its object -

Signed in behalf and by direction of
the Town of Nantucket in legal Town meeting
on the 15th Sept 1814

Signed Attest James Coffin town Clerk -
moderator -

Nantucket 15 Septh 1814

The Honorable Henry Sloane Esq
Commodore commanding his Majestys
Ships & Vessels employed on the Coast of
North America from Nantucket to the

Delaware —

Nantucket 15th Sept¹ 1814

Sir we have the honor to acknowledge
the receipt of your communication dated on the 8th instant, and we
now beg leave to reply to the Subjects of it, the Inhabitants of the Island
are under a full conviction of the heavy pecuniary the payment of
the direct and other taxes would have upon them at this time
of increased and increasing distress, but they have had to act
upon this subject with obvious embarrassment. Reflecting upon
the effect, that a refusal of payment, would have on the
one hand, while they contemplated on the other with no
less anxiety the intimation that the payment should cause
the generous privileges granted them to be withdrawn in
this extreme critical and perplexing Condition they assem-
bled in town Meeting and resolved to petition the Congress
of the U² States if not to remit at least to suspend the
Collection of the taxes during the existence of the present
unhappy conflict, but to remove all doubt of the intention
of the inhabitants fully to comply as far as practicable
with the requisitions of the Honorable Sir Alexander Cock-
rane, the Officer deputed to collect the taxes upon the Island
was prevailed upon immediately to resign his Commission
we feel confident that no inhabitant of the Island will
accept of the appointment as collector and that no stranger
will expose himself so much as he necessarily must to hold
this undesirable office under these circumstances we are
persuaded that no taxes will be paid but we think ourselves
justified in believing that a public and direct refusal of
payment will not be required of us for the peculiar favo-
urs already granted to this place evinced in H. B. M. Gov-
ernment and in his Naval Commanders a determination not
to embarrass and distress but to aid and relieve the un-
offending inhabitants, respecting the counterfeit prote-
ctions referred to in your Honors Communication we have
made strict inquiry which has produced in our minds
a conviction that the supposed counterfeit papers were
merely an attested copy of the Votes of the town. and
a copy of the protection granted the town attested by
the Notary Public. these copies we believe were

Procured to shew the neutrality of the Island in the event of the Vessels capture and destruction to induce the discharge of the men if such discharge should be consistent with the instructions given to his Britannic majestys Commanders we do not discover that any injury can result from these Copies but if this use of them thus explain'd dose not comport with your Honors views no pains shall be spared on our part to suppress the use of them, in order that you may be better able to judge of the tenor of those instruments granted we here inclose you a true copy of all the papers which have been given to those Vessels who have no Protection,

we have the Honor to be
with great Consideration
your most Ob^r & very H^r & Serv^t

Nantucket 9th Feby 1814.

Capt Joseph Chase & Zenas Coffin were in permit of Aaron Mit^o to read & copy the letter ^{above} to be sent to Hotham hearing that Latham Bunker was going out that forenoon and Simeon Gardner with him. we went down ward met Obed Michel he told us Aaron had just gone southward in the next street above with a black man & trunk we followed round in said street and at the pacific Bank stood the black man with a trunk and told us Aaron had gone down to the brick office were we found him & Simeon Gardner at the west End stopt a little from him then David Elkins come to us and delivered to the letter that was to go to Hotham for him & Cap' Chase to sign then Aaron left Gardner & went to Chase & Z.C and with the business finished we told him we did also he being in hast about business sed he could not attend to it Z.C proposed to him that Cap' Chase forward on the letter, he the P. Aaron broke out in a fit and said I will agree to no such thing he would have no money in the business but would send one of each, very well Z.C told him he wish^d none in the bump but would copy the letter and would meet them & see what to do with it which was done methem concluded to send it by Latham went down & delivered it to him and found Simeon Gardner was ~~over~~

was on board Passenger, Neprel hanging by head fast and
cast of in a few minutes after Aaron & Zenas went
down and del'd the letter to Latham & saw them cast
of with Simeon Gardner on board to be the bearer
of P Letter, the reader will be able to judge
for him self where the munkeony is ~~8c~~ ~~8c~~ ~~8c~~

after hearing the following as well as the preceeding information

1814. Sept 17th Zenas & Isaac left her in the morning with Gifford sloop Eliza
bound westward at 10 o'clock in the forenoon anchored off Hobque
wind westly in the afternoon got up to tarpoling cove about 5 o'clock
at anchor found the ^{sloop} Carline & sloop Omega at anchor their, —
about 8 o'clock that evening the ship Pectolas anchored about
with the cove about 10 o'clock about cal'd along side and inform
~~them~~ that Commodore Slothan was of Block Island —

18th at sunrise got our anchor fresh wind westly beat up thro quicheshole
and anchored at Ponagamet Latham anchored at wicker hole —

19th fresh wind about N got our anchor went out in the bay found it
ruled returned again at anchor the amey Robinson left here for Nantucket
in the afternoon went out again but found it to be ruled in the bay —
returned again, and the sloop Omega come in from quicher hole also

20th first part small wind from SW to S middle part fresh wind at WSW
by still all Day

21th first part calm & small air at WNW rowd out at 9 o'clock small bear
at N E run SW at 2 PM saw a sloop out by Ludaunk at 3 saw the
Carline out by Ludaunk, after sunset spake 2 Haden near block Island
we understand him he should not stop, after dark we run Wb S at 10 Oc
we saw a ship ahead at $\frac{1}{2}$ part 11 spake her, her boat come and in
Vited Zenas & Isaac on board and found it to be Capt Robert Barrie
of his majesty, ship Dragon 74 at anchor saw our flag paper to be regu
lar informed us the Commodore by 6 miles West of him and set
them on board again after inform ~~them~~ of their defects and was very poli
to them & his officers ^{also} when Isaac informed them he was in the sloop Hawk
about 2 o'clock anchored near the admirals ship, Sipeab of the east
end Gardner's Island —

22th in the morning saw the experiment at anchor about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from
her and at 11 o'clock her boat went on board the Sipeab & soon return
and went on board again soon after, wind Eastly and wet about
9 o'clock 2 Haden run to one of the bigates westward the boat from
the commodore came on board the officer ask for ^{our} papers for Slothan
and carried them on board to him Latham abating up toward us at
10 o'clock anchored near the Commodore ship and the Carline also
anchored she came from the Eastward and anchored near us —

which made 4 sloops from Nantucket, two brigs near the Commodore, which was two to many as it appeared when the boat returned with our papers or flag paper with the following indorsement on it, the Officer informed us we ought to have come in one of the permitted vessels to have been legal we told him we was in one of them he seem to be affected at our refusal by the Commodore and wish to carry it on board which he did and soon returned again with Capt' Gordons Verbal threat and told us the Carline was order'd off also, now dirty thick earthly rainy weather about one o'clock we left them all there at anchor except Haden who was round one of the frigates along time & then was gone thro the race for York — there being two frigates to the ~~ward~~ ^{ward} of the race in the Sound. we left the Omega at anchor, Simeon Gardner with him, Judge ye where the munkery is for some time after the return of Latham & Gardner the sloop Fairamerica was a loading, but ^{the} master did not hear as she advertised for the federal fish or any body's else, but it has been ^{say} when apply to Latham to take freight for people the answer was he belong to Savon & could take none.

A copy of Latham's indorsement on the back of a flag of truce
Rept Isaac Coffin & Zenas Coffin appearing not to have been
dispatched by the proper Authority of the Island of Nantucket to
embark on board the sloop Eliza with a flag of truce, to confer
with Commodore Glotham ^{Command} J.M. ship off New London he can hold
no communication with them, and the said Vessel is hereby directed
to return forthwith to Nantucket. Sign'd Henry Glotham

H M Ship Sloop

22nd Sept 1814

Commodore

A list of Vessels made out by Zenas & Isaac while at anchor at Ponaganset to git in play for if possible was the sloop Hawk the
Sloop Dispatch Alonso Factor Hunter Hannah Hiram Enterprise,
President & Ruby also for lumber, & and are command for the
environs but perhaps some one wasearfull of munkery being discovered

Soon after the within letter of 22th of Sept^r from Com^r Hetham

Application from some of the benevolent party was made to the selectmen for a town meeting on the 28th of Sept^r to see and conclude whether this town will chuse a new Committee to carry into effect the neutrality agreed on with him - and to act and transact all matters and things relating thereto also to authorise the same Committee if the town shall see fit to with the commanders of all public and private armed British Vessels that shall visit our shores -

also to see and conclude whether the town will discontinue all other Committees appointed by the town to treat with any of his Britannic majestys Ships and Vessels -

the Selectmen introduced in the warrant as follows article 5th to take into consideration the alarming situation of this town and to see and conclude whether some method can be devised wherein this town may conduct themselves in such a manner: so as not to violate the Constitution and Laws of the United States

also for the last article to see and conclude whether this town will take such methods as will prevent provisions of all descriptions being ship^d off this Island to the injury of the inhabitants -

the reader will judge for him self whether the Selectmen was acting for the benifit of this people or for the benefit^{of} of their enemies, when they read the votes past at the following meeting -
by what^{was} introduced in^{the} warrant to call^{the} meeting as above mentioned -

The Republicans that the Selectmen would be most suitable for this new contemplated Committee but to their surprise on the Day of the town meeting the Wash^t Benevolence so call^d had a meeting prior to^{the} town meeting and^{the} Society went to the town house with a sufficient number for a large majority in^{the} house, half an hour before the time of^{the} meeting and

Then after the meeting being organized refred to adjourn out of doors as usual, perhaps if the selectmen had been Appointed at this time it might have interfered with some concern so they took the power into their hands discharge all other Committees call for and received the towns money out of the other Committees hands, by their new Committee - after P^o Meeting so as to fix, & not to mix -

N^o 5 Copy of the Votes in P^o town Meeting

At a Town Meeting at Nantucket Sep^o 28th 1814 -

Voted that Joniah Barker Esq^r be moderator for P^o meeting,
Voted that this town will not pay any direct tax or internal duties during the present war between the United States of America and the Government of great Britain

Voted that there be a Committee appointed to carry into effect the instructions which is agreed on with Admiral Henry Hotham which shall consist of four persons -

Voted that W^r Aaron Mitchell W^r Roland Gelston H^r W^r Coffin and Joniah Barker Esq^r be the above Committee -

Voted that the Committee above chosen be a Committee to treat with the Commanders of all public and private armed British Vessels that are or shall be visiting our shores -

Voted that this town do now discontinue all other Committees that has been heretofore appointed by P^o town to treat with any of the Commanders of his Britannic majestys Ship or Vessels in behalf of the Town -

Voted that this town will prevent the carrying any provisions from this Island more than shall be permitted by Admiral Henry Hotham - A true Copy of the Record -

Sign^d - attest James Coffin Town Clerk

The reader may observe the first article in the warrant treated with silent contempt instead of apologizing to our Government first for a Vote that we was ordered not to pay any taxes, but from the Sloop Charlotte bound to Bermuda & the Chesapeake and elsewhere and for what the reader may judge for him self - also the above Committee calling the town money out of the hands of the other Committee hands without a Vote of the town or seven parts as above voted -

It appears by the Notes taken in the proceeding meeting is to discharge apart of a Community which they accuse of informing the people the wright they are deprived of - And to dispossess the selectmen from acting or nowing any business done with the Enemys public or private - Soon after the proceeding meeting. Doct^r Roland Gelston and Josiah Barker two of the last mentioned Committee left this place for to inform Commodore Holtham that this town had Complied with his command, a bout the taxes and on the morning of the 28th the Day for the town meeting there was two inflammatory papers stuck up on the Burnal Store one of them was a gainst Zenas & Isaac because they had ~~been~~ ^{been in} a regular Flag of truce to try to get relief for the Public and recommend from Holtham to the Commanding Officer at Halifax while while application and permission was obtained from our Government to bring the prisoners belonging to Nantuck from Halifax having a scrip from Admiral Caron for that purpose, but the proceeding above mentioned & refusing or discharging the Selectmen &c put an end to the business, ~~for~~ ^{lest perhaps} there should be some more of their Letters and papers shown and detected as has allorady been seen & read by the Repuplican on board the Enemys Vessels which did not git there by a regular flag from this town

31 A Copy of the other Paper that was on Burnal's Stone

To the Public

Before my arrival at this place yesterday. I consider'd the people were more happy. Situated than any other Citizens in America. but to my astonishment last evening I was convinc'd that the situation of the Inhabitants was more critical than any other set of men on Earth for at a late period I learned that there was a Caucus meeting which I attended and to my astonishment I there found Gideon Gardner, who has been a French partisan and an enemy to the English recommending the Selectmen to be a Committee to Correspond and stipulate with Admiral Hotham. who also are, and ever have been professed enemies to Great Britain. Should the good people of this Island allow those men to have the corresponding powers with the English, they may rest assured that all stipulations heretofore entered into will be broken off for the Commanding officer as well knows what the political sentiments of every person is on this Island as the Inhabitants does them selves therefore I beg and intreat them one and all to prevent if possible such an unnatural Committee being appointed, and save your town from destruction —

Sign'd A. Stranger

The above paper was taken down by Gideon Gardner early in the morning of the 28th of Sept 1811 (the same day of the town meeting) it has been mention'd by the Federalists and by Aaron Mitchel in particular that the political sentiments of each individual of this place is as well known by the British admiral Hotham as they were a mongst the Inhabitants. The reader will judge whether the republicans inform'd them or the Federalists gave them this information when when they hear Silvanus May & Isaac Coffin inform them that Admiral Cockburn red a letter to them and let them ^{see} the same and the Siner's name informing him that they were democrats the owners and so forth they told him they were Republicans and he commend'd them for being so cold republicans, or in favour of their own Government —

A few Days after ^{there} was another paper posted up threatening

Caution to George Cannon

Sir having understood that you have taken it upon you to exclaim against the good people of this town for taking certain Votes at a late town meeting which alone could save their ^{property} from destruction not your property for none you have except what you got as a hiring from that power which never have nor never can assist us in time of great peril like the present. Therefore have to say to you that the first Observations that you shall be known to make against the inhabitant, for endeavoring to save their property from destruction shall be transmitted with a statement of your character to Admiral Hotham ~~both~~ through whom by direction of Admiral Cochrane do we occupy our dwellings and remain with our families in peace. and no doubt he will direct one of his majestys Commanders to take you from among those people who enjoy more privileges than any Citizens on the sea coast of America can boast of.

Sigⁿd a Citizen

Altho the above Caution does not name any one except George Cannon, whether it ^{is not} a threat to others to deter them from speaking, as Cannon was not at the Caucus nor at the town meeting above alluded to

^{A copy} The Gentlemen of the Committee His Majestys Ship Superb off Garners Bay 3rd Dec^r 1811
 appointed to carry into effect the Gentlemen I have to acknowledge the recd of
 Neutrality of the Island of Nantucket Gentlemen inclosing a copy of certain resolutions of
 your letter of the 29th ult^r inclosing a copy of certain resolutions of
 a legal town meeting of the Inhabitants of Nantucket on the preceding
 day, on which Occasion I perceive a Vote has been pass^d not to pay
 any direct taxes or internal duties, during the present war between
 Great Britain and the United States of America, a report of which
 proceedings I shall submit to Vice Admiral the Honorable Sir Alexander
 Cochrane Commander in Chief, the Indulgences the Commander in chief
 directed me to grant to the inhabitants of the Island of Nantucket having
 been conceded for the relief of their distress Occasion by the want of provision
 and not intended to give security to so large an importation thereof as
 would open a traffic, having the effect of supplying his majestys enemies
 in other parts of the United States, it is impossible to permit any vessel to pass
 from Nantucket to the continent with any lading whatever except that expressed in
 in the passports furnished them by me which afford advantages to that Island
 already so great that I have no authority to increase them. I am not yet
 informed the circumstances under which the slop Regulator has been captured
 by his majestys Ship Neemon off the Delaware, & I shall hope it has not
 been done without a sufficient cause, I shall however derive report
 thereof to be made to me and shall do my endeavours to procure

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justice to the owners & to obtain for them any reparation they may be intitled to, and I will order the release of the inhabitants of Nantucket who compose her crew if they should be still be detained onboard the Frigate and apply for the same if they should be sent into port

I have the Honor to be Gentleman yours
most Obedient & humble Servt

Signd Henry Hottham Commodore

On or about the 10th of Oct the Brig^g Neufchatelet of N-York
was attack by five Barges with about one hundred &
forty men as one of the Officers inform^d R^g Colston
Belonging to the British Frigat Endymion, and it
is said there was more than one hundred of them was
kain, since which the information is that not more
than Thirty ever returned to P^r ship —

on the 12th Oct the prise ship Douglas was run on
Shoar near Seacher pone with a load of rum sugar
coffee Cotton &c &c — — — — — free trade & sailors rights

Some time in Oct Capt Corrington of the U States flotilla on
the R Island Station issued an order forbidding all block
Island Vipels & boats entering the Harbour of R Island
& prevented Noah Hatch from bringing any provisions
to Nantucket — on the 2^d of Nov^r in the evening
~~was~~ the following received at Nantucket —

Nir^d New Bedford Nov^r 2^d 1814 —

This is to give notice that no Vipel belonging to the
Island of Nantucket or Block Island will be allowed
to enter the Harbour of New Bedford —

Signd L - E Megee Officer
Commanding U.S. flotilla

about the middle of Nov^r

These restrictions was removed as well as at Philadelphia
By Cromell Barnard going to Congress in company with
the Vice President Gerry after he had been applied
to by the Republicans to assist us at Nantucket

Of this town are requested to meet at Washington Hall This Evening 6 o'clock precisely - to conclude upon measures which may appear best for the (Standing Committee) to pursue in order to obtain a Market for our (Fish) as the Codfishery may become an important object of the Citizens of our County the subject is highly interesting and calls for mature deliberation

Friday Nov^r 25th 1814 — A general & punctual attendance is required

Nov^r 26th at a town Meeting, and adjourned to Tristram Hussey Store for more room, after much debate and abusive language from some of the people ^{who} stiles them selves benevolents, and even denied paying any part of some of the town Dts if they could help it and then appointed there fore Committee men to try to get the prisoners from Halifax that belong to Nantucket but had heretofore prevented the Selectmen and their Committee with their order from Admiral Cochrane for all the prisoners they might find belonging to Nantucket and what was most extraordinary was that they refused to receive any information from P Committee about the prisoners but after they had stated a new Committee to git the Prisoners, they then voted that Silvanus & Isaac might tell them what they new as individuals and P Committee called on Silvanus & Isaac and called loudly for their information, and after some conversation.

Friends

Nantucket Nov^r 30th 1814

Under existing circumstances we believe no Information from us by documents or otherwise will apply as was originally intended, for the relief of prisoners

To Josiah Barker with due respect we are your Friends

Aaron Michel
D^r Roland Colston

(the other was not on the Island at that time)

Signd. Silvanus May
Isaac Coffin

Some time about the middle of Decem^r Josiah Barker & Do^r Gelston Two of the Committee went in the Experiment bound for N^r York to endeavor to see Admiral Hotham respecting Nantucket prison at Halifax Dec^r 8th and Capt Thomas Hiller also to see what he could do as respected the sloop Regulator but all that Capt got was a new passport and all the Committee could get as they P^r was a pass to go to Halifax, as Hotham informed them that it was out of his power to give them an order for the Prisoners, and they returned to this Island in sloop Experiment

on the 31st of December 1814 and informed that Hotham told them that they might carry fish in the vessels already permitted to carry oil & candle, but would not give any thing to show that they might carry fish — a paragraph from Hotham letter the 3rd Dec^r 1814. It is impossible to permitt any vessel to pass from Nantucket to the continent with any lading whatever except that expressed in the passport furnish them by me — — —

January the 6th 1815 being the fourth day of the week and the Selectmen usual time of meeting that evening at their board for their business of the town and hearing that the Sheriff had writs of inditement to serve on six of them they on P^r Day invited Walter Folger Silvanus Macy Gideon Gardner Gilbert Coffin & Tomas Coffin to come to Isaac Coffin house at 7 o'clock that evening for Bondsman for P^r Selectmen that they might not be carried to jail, Walter Folger Jr Esq^r and Charles Folger Esq^r being present to be recognised before to appear at Boston on the 14th March for to answer to their inditement, about 8 o'clock the Sheriff come into Isaac Coffin house where the Selectmen held meeting, and Isaac Coffin ask^d him for one of the indictments to read to the Company which was red, Gideon Gardner ask^d the Sheriff if he was oblige to serve P^r with immediately his reply was the Court would not set till some time in March next and that one week or 4 days prior to the court being in session would be intime for him Silvanus Macy observed to the Sheriff provided he served P^r with the selectmen would be arrested and could

340 Not act or transact any of the towns business, if they did
not act the the towns poor would suffer and money
wanting and none to be obtained without living and none
could be hired without the aprouation of the selectmen,
the sheriff observed he would postpone the serving the writs
and would accommodate all in his power, even if the town
would vote for him to burn the writs he would burn them
provided the town would take the responsibility upon them-
selves, so that he should not suffer by it —

Daniel Coffin one of the Selectmen told the sheriff they ask
no favours of him, & wish'd him to understand that the selec-
men did not ask him to postpone the serving the writs
for they wanted no favours from him, then Isaac Coffin
made simclar observation to the sheriff and told him that they
should be togeather that evening at his house and were rat-
for that purpose and wanted no favours of him, and told
him the sheriff that it would prove more serious to him than
he expected this was done in a serious manner, so much
so, that it appeared to attract the attention of all present
Gideon & Silvanus both told the sheriff it was on account of
the public and towns poor that they proposed his postponing
the business, the Sheriff then said he would postpone the business
as long as the Law would admit and not serve them till
some time in march —

On or about the 21th of January 1815 the Sloop Amey C-H Robinson and the Sloop Experiment D-L Myrick was taken by the schooner Lunenburg of Lunenburg and was both maned for Lunenburg and the crews of both sloops landed on Block Island the same Day & Evening, and the same day about sunset 40 miles S.E. of Block Island the sloop Amey Charles H Robinson on board was liberated, and ^{by ship Calladay} on the same night following got a man ~~off~~ ^{of} of Sam'l Gelston and arrived at Nantucket the next morning about 10 o'clock with S^r sloop Amey —

22th On First Day the wind being about N E and 2 N E all day at sunset began to snow & form and was a severe gale of wind all night and a snowstorm also —

On or about the 26th the crews of both sloops that was landed on Block Island arrived at Nantucket on board the Mail Packet from Falmouth, and at Falmouth the night before in a block island boat all well —

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At a Legal Town Meeting at Nantucket November
26th 1814. Isaac Coffin Esquire was chosen moderator
of said Meeting

Noted - That this Meeting be Adjourned to Tristram Hussey
Store -

Voted - That Josiah Barker Esquire Aaron Mitchell -
Benjamin Coffin and Roland Gelston who are the
Standing Committee are requested to do all in their
power for the Relief of the poor Prisoners belonging
to Nantucket which are confined in Halifax
and elsewhere -

Noted - that Isaac Coffin Esq^t and Silvanus Macy as Individual
be requested to give the Standing Committee every inform
ation in their power respecting the Nantucket Prisoners
which are now in Confinement -

Noted - That the above mentioned Committee be Authorized to
Send a flag of truce to Halifax to obtain the relief
of the prisoners, but said Vessel to go free of Expence
to this Town -

Nantucket March 6th 1815

A True Copy of Record Attest

James Coffin Town Clerk

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